Environment Standards Definition

An environment is an integrated logical or physical set of hardware components and supporting software and data components that is used the execute applications and services in that environment. The following definitions detail the type of environments that will be supported in the enterprise and how they will be used. This information should be used to determine which environments a technology, service, or application will function within. The only two environments that are mandatory for every technology, service, or application are user acceptance test and production. This will help ensure system availability and reliability as changes are made to technologies, services, and applications.

Environment Definitions

- Sandbox - A limited, isolated environment where new technologies and applications can be run without risk to the rest of the network and applications. The sandbox environment is designed for system administrators and developers looking to evaluate new technologies or test changes to existing technologies without impacting others.
- Development – The environment in which application developers initially deploy the software components of the application. System upgrades and changes would be put in this environment after they have been tested in the sandbox by system administrators.
- Systems Integration Test – The environment where testing of software components that are distributed across multiple platforms occurs. Application testing occurring in this environment spans multiple servers and services. System upgrades and changes would be put in this environment at the same time they are installed in development.
- User Acceptance Test – The environment in which an application is tested by the business user against its usability requirements. System upgrades and changes would be put in this environment after they have been successfully deployed to development and systems integration test.
- Education – The environment in which users are trained on applications. System upgrades and changes occur in this environment at the same time they are installed in production.
- Performance/Load Test – The environment in which the application is checked for performance and scalability. The environment will be built to stress applications to the appropriate level to help determine if performance or scalability issues exist before the application or technology moves to production. System upgrades and changes would be put in this environment at the same time they are deployed to production.
- Staging – The environment that is primarily used as a repository for applications prior to their deployment to the production environment. This environment is used by the designated business customer as a final testing location. It can also be used as the location from which applications are moved to production. System upgrades and changes

would be put in this environment at the same time they are deployed to production.

- Production - The environment that is used by the end user to access deployed applications. This is the final location that application code is deployed to. This is also the final environment that system upgrades and changes are applied to.